

GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2020/2021 (STATUS AT START OF LEGISLATIVE YEAR)

PASSED BY PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Appropriation Act, 2020	The Bill provides the authority for expenditure (other than statutory expenditure) for the financial year 2020/2021.

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TABLED IN PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
2.	1.	Ministry of Culture Gender Entertainment and Sport	Prevention of Sexual Harassment Bill	To highlight the nature of the offensive conduct, establish the liability of the offending party, and to outline the liability of accommodating parties.
3.	2.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Registration of Titles (Amendment) Bill	The Bill seeks to amend the Act to: (a) implement an adjudication-centric and driven process for proving the ownership of land; (b) separate the process of planning and subdivision approval from the issuing of titles; and (c) provide that where boundaries are adjudicated upon and pursuant to a systematic registration process are deemed to be acquiesced notwithstanding any enactment to the contrary and provided the parties do not object to same.
4.	3.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Registration of Titles Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions) (Amendment) Bill	The Bill seeks to amend the Act to: (a) implement an adjudication-centric and driven process for proving the ownership of land; (b) separate the process of planning and subdivision approval for the issuing of titles under the Registration of Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions) Act; and (c) provide for the full operations for the Land Administration and Management Programme processes, including the adjudication processes to fall under the responsibility of the CEO of the Land Agency.
5.	4.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Bill; Banking Services Bill; Public Bodies and Accountability (Amendment) Bill	To establish new Bank of Jamaica Governance Regulations.
6.	5.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Customs Bill	To repeal and replace the Customs Act to facilitate the comprehensive review and modernization of the Act to support the reforms in customs administration.
7.	6.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Micro-Credit Bill	To strengthen the legislative framework for money lending institutions and money service businesses.
8.	7.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	Occupational Safety and Health Bill	To provide for the establishment of safety and health standards for all places in which economic activity is undertaken.
9.	8.	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Human Services Bill	To repeal and replace the Poor Relief Act; to abolish the Board of Supervision and transfer its functions to the Ministry with responsibility for local government; and to modernise the legislation.
10.	9.	Ministry of Science and Technology	Data Protection Bill	To implement a regime to protect the privacy of individuals in relation to personal data and regulate the collection, processing, keeping, use and disclosure of information relating to individuals.

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APPROVED BY CABINET FOR TABLING				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
11.	1.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Limited Liability Companies Bill	To provide for the establishment of Limited Liability Companies in Jamaica

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BEING CONSIDERED/APPROVED BY LEGISLATION COMMITTEE				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
12.	1.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Optometry Bill	To modernize and properly regulate the practice of Optometrists.
13.	2.	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	Agro-Investment Corporation (Amendment) Bill	To merge the functions of the Agricultural Marketing Corporation (AMC) and the Agro-Investment Corporation (AIC); as well as to establish mechanisms to improve and expand the functioning of the AIC.
14.	3.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	Minimum Wage (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate compliance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189), which Jamaica has already ratified.

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BEING DRAFTED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
15.	1.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill	To change the name of the Act to the "Rent Act" to reflect the purpose of the legislation to regulate all aspects of the rental industry; and to effect other amendments to the Act.
16.	2.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Segregated Accounts Companies Bill	To provide for the establishment of Segregated Accounts Companies in Jamaica.
17.	3.	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	Jamaica Teaching Council Bill	To provide for the establishment of the Jamaica Teaching Council, consequential amendments to the provisions of the Education Act dealing with the Teachers Service Commission, and for the introduction of a system of teacher licensing.
18.	4.	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	Jamaica Tertiary Commission Bill	To modernize and strengthen the legal and regulatory framework for the Higher Education sector in Jamaica, including making provision for the registration of Higher Education providers, the establishment of a National Qualifications Framework, the re-structuring of institutional arrangements to support the Sector and consequential amendments and for related matters.
19.	5.	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica (Validation and Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to empower the Council to confer academic awards and to validate and indemnify the Council in respect of past actions in making such awards.
20.	6.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Resolution for Financial Institutions (Special Resolution Regime) Bill	To establish a special resolution regime for the orderly resolution of distressed financial institutions in order to protect financial stability whilst minimizing the recourse to public funds.
21.	7.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Independent Fiscal Council Bill	To establish an Independent Fiscal Institution to promote sound fiscal policy and sustainable public finances.
22.	8.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Pensions (Superannuation Funds and Retirement Schemes) (Amendment) Bill	Regulation of Private Pension Scheme for vesting, indexation and portability. This is the second phase of private sector pensions reform.
23.	9.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Revenue Administration Bill	To enhance the effectiveness of and strengthen the enforcement capabilities of the RPD.
24.	10.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Insurance Bill	To facilitate the creation of the legislative framework for micro-insurance and to support the microcredit industry.

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BEING DRAFTED (cont'd)				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
25.	11.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Credit Union (Special Provisions) Bill	To facilitate the supervision of Credit Unions by the Bank of Jamaica.
26.	12.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Public Accountancy Bill	To improve and strengthen the effectiveness of the accountancy profession.
27.	13.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the integration of the Audit Commission into the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.
28.	14.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Financial Services Commissions (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the development of the regime for consolidated supervision of non-deposit taking institutions (non-DTIs) groups.
29.	15.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the effective regulation of Natural Health products, including nutraceuticals.
30.	16.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (Implementation) Bill	To expedite compliance with commitments under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
31.	17.	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	Companies (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the efficient operation of companies in Jamaica.
32.	18.	Ministry of Industry, Commerce Agriculture and Fisheries	Trade Mark (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the implementation of the Madrid Protocol which allows for a system of International registration of trademarks and service marks.
33.	19.	Ministry of Justice	Dogs (Liability for Injury) (Repeal) Bill	To repeal and replace the Act to provide for criminal and civil liability for the owner of a dog that attacks, injures or causes the death of a person.
34.	20.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	National Insurance Bill	To provide for increase in contributions and benefits payable under the Act and for connected matters.
35.	21.	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	National Solid Waste Management (Amendment) Bill	To validate all the actions of the NSWMA with respect to the contributions to the MPM Plan; and to empower the Minister to give retroactive approval to NSWMA to join the MPM Pension Plan.
36.	22.	Ministry of National Security	Firearms (Amendment) Bill	To address deficiencies hindering the Firearm Licensing Authority in the execution of their duties; and to provide for the revision of the protocols supporting the current firearm review process; and to introduce new offences.

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BEING DRAFTED (cont'd)				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
37.	23.	Ministry of National Security	Immigration Restriction (Commonwealth Citizen) (Amendment) Bill; and Aliens (Amendment) Bill	To amend the immigration laws to address current and emerging border security issues.
38.	24.	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill	To comprehensively review the Act to strengthen the provisions in keeping with Jamaica's continued compliance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention, 1944).
39.	25.	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Maritime Labour Convention Bill	To give effect to the Maritime Labour Convention; and to amend related laws to provide for the right of seafarers to decent living and working standards on ships.
40.	26.	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Shipping (Pollution Prevention, Response, Liability and Compensation Bill	To incorporate the provisions of MARPOL 73/78; to allow for recovery compensation in the event of an oil spill and contribution by importers of oil to the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund.
41.	27.	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the implementation of recent policy changes to reflect the current trends and to address indiscipline and corruption in the public passenger transport sector.
42.	28	Office of the Prime Minister	Registration (Births and Deaths) (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Registration (Births and Deaths) Act to treat with the registration forms and procedures for the mandatory registration of the particulars of fathers.

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DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
43.	1.	Office of the Prime Minister	National Identification and Registration Bill	To introduce a National Identification Card and National Identification Number as well as the establishment of the National Identification and Registration Authority.

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CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
44.	1.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Professional Engineers Registration (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to address issues relating to registration, annual practising certificated and prescribed fees and penalties.
45.	2.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Casino Gaming (Amendment) Bill	To redefine the requirements for investments in Integrated Resort Developments.
46.	3.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Gaming Bill	To facilitate the merger of the Betting Gaming and Lotteries Commission, the Jamaica Racing Commission and the Casino Gaming Commission.
47.	4.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	International Corporate and Trust Services Providers Bill	To include domestic corporate and trust services providers under the regulatory regime of the Financial Services Commission.
48.	5.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	National Family Planning (Repeal) Bill.	To facilitate the integration of the National Family Planning Board as a division in the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
49.	6.	Ministry of Science and Technology	Petroleum (Downstream Activities) Bill	To consolidate and supplement the relevant aspect of all existing downstream legislation and to amend the First Schedule of the Office of Utilities Regulation Act to provide the Office of Utilities Regulation with jurisdiction in respect of the regulation of the downstream natural gas sector in Jamaica.
50.	7.	Ministry of Tourism	Tourist Board (Amendment) Bill; River Rafting (Repeal) Act	To amend the Act in order to transfer the licensing function from the Tourist Board to Ministry of Tourism.
51.	8.	Ministry of Tourism	Bath of St. Thomas the Apostle (Amendment) Bill; Milk River (Amendment) Bill	To pursue a long-term development lease as the divestment modality for the Bath Fountain Hotel and Spa and the Milk River Hotel and Spa.